

REMARKS

Examiner's comments in the Office Action marked "non-final" and dated June 19, 2007 have been read and carefully considered by Applicants. In view of such comments, Applicants have amended the set of claims in the present Application as set forth hereinabove. In particular, independent claim 11 and also dependent claims 12-17, 19, 20, and 22-26 have all been amended to better highlight the patentable differences of Applicants' proposed invention as compared to the prior art cited by Examiner in the Office Action. In amending these claims, however, Applicants maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly introduced into the present Application. Furthermore, Applicants have herein canceled claims 18, 21, and 27 and also added new claims 28-30 as set forth hereinabove. Claims 1-10 were previously cancelled. Therefore, claims 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, and 28-30 now remain pending in Applicants' present Application for Examiner's consideration.

At the present time, it is Applicants' good faith belief that the pending claims, as presented herein, are both novel and non-obvious in view of all known prior art and that the claims properly comply with all applicable statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully aver that the pending claims now place the present Application in a condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Non-Compliant Oath/Declaration:

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected Applicants' oath/declaration as being defective for not being properly signed by Applicants.

In response, Applicants have herewith submitted a new oath/declaration with proper signatures. Examiner's receipt and entry of the newly submitted oath/declaration is respectfully requested by Applicants.

Amendments to the Specification:

In the present Amendment, Applicants have amended paragraphs 0001-0027 of the written specification in the Application. (See amended paragraphs set forth hereinabove.) In general, these paragraphs in the specification have largely been amended so as to merely correct obvious typographical or grammatical errors that were present in the Application as originally filed. Therefore, in making such amendments, Applicants again respectfully maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Furthermore, in the present Amendment, Applicants have amended Figure 2. In particular, Applicants have amended Figure 2 by newly including the numerical designation "22" therein and by also adding an additional designation "27" therein. (See REPLACEMENT SHEET for Figure 2 submitted herewith.) Support for making such amendments to Figure 2 is set forth within paragraphs 0019 and 0020 of the written specification. (See paragraphs of the specification as amended hereinabove.) Therefore, in making such an amendments, Applicants again respectfully maintain that no new matter has been impermissibly added to the present Application.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2:

Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 16, 17, and 25-27 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, Examiner indicated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the oil inlet port," which was originally set forth in both claims 16 and 17. In addition, Examiner further indicated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said by-pass," which was originally set forth in claim 25.

In response, Applicants have herein amended claims 16 and 17 by replacing original limitation "the oil inlet port" with amended limitation "said inlet port." Also, Applicants have herein amended claim 25 by replacing original limitation "said by-pass" with amended limitation "said bore." In view of such amendments, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's rejections of claims 16, 17, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 all be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a):

Furthermore, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 11-18, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated and therefore rendered unpatentable by International Publication Number WO 00/07691, which was published for Yves Malecot *et al.* on February 17, 2000 (hereinafter "Malecot"). Also, in the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 19, 20, and 23-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious and therefore unpatentable by Malecot in view of United States Patent Number US 3,970,557, which was issued to Stephen Shoup on July 20, 1976 ("Shoup").

In response, Applicants have herein amended independent claim 11, amended dependent claims 12-17, 19, 20, and 22-26, and canceled dependent claims 18, 21, and 27 as set forth hereinabove. Therefore, for Malecot and/or Shoup to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as now set forth in amended independent claim 11, Malecot and/or Shoup must generally disclose and/or teach an "oil filtering device" with an "open bore" (i.e., valveless) filter-bypass feature. Neither Malecot nor Shoup, however, teaches such a filter-bypass feature. Malecot neither teaches nor discloses any type of filter-bypass feature at all, and Shoup exclusively teaches a "spring-biased relief valve" type filter-bypass feature. (Shoup, see column 2, lines 4-28; and see relief valve 28 in Figure 1.) Therefore, in view of the claims as amended or canceled, Applicants now respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) claim

rejections set forth in the Office Action and request that all such rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

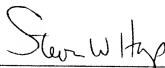
In view of the claims as amended and also the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, and 28-30 are all both novel and non-obvious with respect to the disclosures and teachings of Malecot and Shoup and that these claims properly comply with all statutory requirements. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's claim rejections in the Office Action be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims 11-17, 19, 20, 22-26, and 28-30.

Also, together with this Amendment, a "Petition for an Extension of Time" (3 months) is submitted along with an appropriate fee.

Lastly, should Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 433-7200.

Respectfully submitted,

DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC



Steven W. Hays, Reg. No. 41,823
38525 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5092
telephone: (248) 433-7200
facsimile: (248) 433-7274

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